

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 MC-02 L-03 AID-05

IGA-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15

EB-07 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AS-01 /075 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR GUATEMALA

REFS: (A) GUATEMALA 6922, (B) GUATEMALA 5831, (C)
GUATEMALA 6904, (D) GUATEMALA 163

1. MUCH APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF. (D).
2. DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO APPROVE SALE OF 15,000
M-16 RIFLES AND 5 MILLION ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA
AS REQUESTED BY EMBASSY. TO ENSURE THAT M-16 DELIVERY
IS SPREAD OUT OVER TIME, WE PREFER SALE TO BE HANDLED
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UNDER FMS PROGRAM. WE PREFER FMS CASH TRANSACTION,

BUT WOULD CONSIDER GOG REQUEST TO APPLY FY 1975 OR PRIOR YEAR UNUTILIZED FMS CREDIT TO THIS SALE. LETTER OF OFFER CAN BE PREPARED IN THIRTY TO FORTY-FIVE DAYS BUT UNDER FMS IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY THIRTEEN MONTHS, AFTER GOG ACCEPTANCE, FOR INITIAL DELIVERY OF 3,000 RIFLES. REST OF ORDER CAN BE SCHEDULED OVER ANY MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME FRAME. IF THIS SCHEDULE IS ACCEPTABLE TO EMBASSY, YOU MAY IMMEDIATELY INFORM GOG OF DECISION, AND REPORT HOW GOG WISHES TO PROCEED WITH THE ORDER, INCLUDING THEIR PROPOSED TIME FRAME. LETTER OF OFFER CAN THEN BE PREPARED.

3. IF GOG RESPONDS BY SAYING THEY HAVE A U.S. COMMERCIAL SUPPLIER LINED UP WHO HAS 15,000 M-16'S AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY, OUR REPLY WOULD BE THAT USG HAS MADE THIS DECISION BASED ON THIS BEING AN FMS CASE AND WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER A COMMERCIAL SALE AS A NEW REQUEST. ALSO, IN THIS EVENT, GOG SHOULD BE ADVISED TO WAIT AND COMPARE FMS PRICES AND AVAILABILITIES (AN FMS LETTER OF OFFER) BEFORE REQUESTING COMMERCIAL SALE.

4. AMMUNITION ORDER: PROCESSING OF THIS ORDER HAS BEEN PROCEEDING IN NORMAL CHANNELS SINCE ORDER WAS APPROVED IN OCTOBER. WHAT HAS HELD IT UP THIS LONG IS THAT SOME OF THE ITEMS REQUESTED BY GOG WERE NOT PROPERLY IDENTIFIED IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION. DOD SENT LETTERS ON OCTOBER 15 AND DECEMBER 9 TO GOG (VIA MILGP) REQUESTING PROPER IDENTIFICATION. LETTERS WERE NEVER ANSWERED. DOD IS NOW COMPLETING WORK ON THESE ITEMS THAT WERE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED (WHICH IS MOST OF THE ORDER). LETTERS OF OFFER SHOULD BE READY ABOUT FORTY-FIVE DAYS FROM NOW. YOU MAY SO ADVISE GOG. DEPARTMENT IS WORKING OUT PROCEDURE WITH DOD WHEREBY WE WILL BE ALERTED WHEN SOME OF THE LARGER AMOUNTS OF AMMUNITION ARE READY FOR SHIPMENT. HAVING THIS MECHANISM IN PLACE WILL NOT DELAY DELIVERY UNLESS SITUATION AT TIME OF DELIVERY WARRANTS IT. EMBASSY WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE SUCH A DECISION WERE MADE.

5. HELICOPTERS: LETTERS OF OFFER FOR ONE R-1 AND TWO R-2 CONDITION HELICOPTERS WERE FORWARDED TO MILGP ON CONFIDENTIAL

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DECEMBER 19. AS TRANSMITTAL LETTER EXPLAINS, HELICOPTERS CAN NOW BE DELIVERED AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, WITH THREE MONTHS ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO DOD. A LENGTHY DELAY COULD MEAN DETERIORATION OF EQUIPMENT AND ADDITIONAL STORAGE COSTS. QUESTION THUS IS ONE OF DELIVERY TIMES. REF (B) MENTIONED LATE 1977 AS PREFERRED DELIVERY TIME. REF (C) CALLS FOR THE ADDITION OF TWO MORE R-1 HELICOPTERS TO THE PACKAGE AND FOR DELIVERY OF THE

TWO R-1 HELICOPTERS TO BE ADVANCED TO THIRD QUARTER OF 1976, WITH REMAINING HELICOPTERS TO BE DELIVERED IN 1977. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE ONE R-1, AND TWO R-2 HELICOPTERS, FOR WHICH LETTERS OF OFFER WERE FORWARDED ON DECEMBER 19 BE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN THIRD QUARTER 1976. WE WILL BEGIN PROCESSING THE ADDITIONAL TWO R-2 HELICOPTERS FOR DELIVERY I; WHATEVER TIME FRAME EMBASSY ADVISES. IF ACCEPTABLE TO EMBASSY GOG CAN BE NOTIFIED OF THIS DECISION.

6. FY 1976 FMS CREDITS: GUATEMALA IS SLATED FOR DOLS 1.5 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR FY 76. AS THESE THINGS

NORMALLY GO, GUATEMALA COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE INFORMED OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS CREDIT NEXT MAY OR JUNE. WE HAVE OPTION OF APPROVING FY 76 CREDITS FOR GUATEMALA NOW, UNDER CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD KEEP A FINAL DECISION PENDING UNTIL WE HAVE SOME INDICATION OF HOW NEGOTIATIONS, NOW ANTICIPATED FOR FEBRUARY, ARE PROCEEDING. DELAY IN DECISION UNTIL THEN WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE GOG'S EVENTUAL ACCESS TO FY 76 CREDITS.

7. C-47 CANCELLATION COSTS: DECISION HAS BEEN MADE THAT USG WILL WAIVE THE CANCELLATION COSTS. YOU MAY SO INFORM THE GOG.

8. WE HAVE TODAY, JANUARY 12, INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, OF DECISIONS ON HELICOPTERS AMMUNITIONS, LANDING CRAFTS, AND RIFLES.

9. DOD CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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